

## HOUSE SUBSTITUTE TO SENATE BILL 288

## A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

## AN ACT

1 To amend Article 17 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
2 relating to teachers and other school personnel, so as to enact the "Grade Integrity Act of  
3 2006"; to provide that no classroom teacher shall be required, coerced, intimidated, or  
4 disciplined in any manner to change the grade of a student; to provide for an ethical violation  
5 reportable to the Professional Standards Commission; to provide for construction; to provide  
6 for the adjustment of grades received in advanced placement and honors courses; to provide  
7 for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Grade Integrity Act of 2006."

11 **SECTION 2.**

12 Article 17 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
13 teachers and other school personnel, is amended by inserting at the end thereof a new Part  
14 12 to read as follows:

15 "Part 12

16 20-2-989.20.

17 (a) No classroom teacher shall be required, coerced, intimidated, or disciplined in any  
18 manner by the local board of education, superintendent, or any local school administrator  
19 to change the grade of a student. A violation of this Code section shall constitute an ethics  
20 violation reportable to the Professional Standards Commission pursuant to Part 10 of this  
21 article.

(b) Nothing in this Code section shall be construed to prevent a principal or other local school administrator from discussing the grade of a student with a classroom teacher.

(c) Nothing in this Code section shall be construed to prevent a central office administrator, superintendent, or local school administrator from changing a student's grade. Any grade change made by a person other than the classroom teacher must be clearly indicated in the student's school records and must indicate the person responsible for making such grade change."

#### SECTION 2A.

Code Section 20-2-157 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to uniform reporting system for high school grades for certain purposes, is amended by striking subsection (b) and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (b) to read as follows:

"(b) Beginning May 1, ~~2007~~ 2008, each school system and private school shall adopt the reporting system described in this subsection for purposes of identifying and qualifying graduating seniors for the HOPE scholarship program and other programs identified in this Code section:

(1) Each school system and private school shall transmit, in a manner and at times prescribed by the Georgia Student Finance Commission, an electronic transcript of courses and course grades for each graduating senior that reflects the complete high school academic record of the student, including scores on any state tests required for graduation, the grading scales used by the school system or private school for the time periods referenced by the transcripts, and any other pertinent information as determined by the Georgia Student Finance Commission. Each grade reported by a school system or private school to the commission for the purpose of calculating the grade point average for HOPE scholarship eligibility shall be the actual grade earned by the student, with no weighting or addition of points by the local school system or private school;

(2) The Georgia Student Finance Commission shall calculate a grade point average for the purpose of determining eligibility for the HOPE scholarship from these electronic transcripts and shall notify students of their eligibility and high schools as to the eligibility of students;

(3) For students otherwise qualified and enrolling as freshmen students in eligible public or private postsecondary institutions for the first time on May 1, ~~2007~~ 2008, or thereafter, the Georgia Student Finance Commission shall calculate grade point averages for determining eligibility for the HOPE scholarship and other scholarships referenced in this Code section as follows:

(A) For students receiving a college preparatory diploma, each grade for a student in attempted coursework in English, mathematics, science, social studies, and foreign language that would, if successfully completed, satisfy a core graduation requirement for the college preparatory curriculum shall be equated to a grade on a 4.0 scale, such that a grade of 'A' = 4.0, a grade of 'B' = 3.0, a grade of 'C' = 2.0, a grade of 'D' = 1.0, and a grade of 'F' = 0; or

(B) For students receiving a career/technical diploma, each grade for a student in attempted coursework in English, mathematics, science, and social studies that would, if successfully completed, satisfy a core graduation requirement for the career/technical curriculum shall be equated to a grade on a 4.0 scale, such that a grade of 'A' = 4.0, a grade of 'B' = 3.0, a grade of 'C' = 2.0, a grade of 'D' = 1.0, and a grade of 'F' = 0.

Grades for coursework that is classified as advanced placement, honors, or international baccalaureate shall be weighted by the Georgia Student Finance Commission in calculating the overall grade point averages for students, provided that the weighting of such course grades is uniformly applied to all students in the state taking the specified coursework. The sum of the equated grades shall be divided by the number of course grades, adjusted for term length, to yield a grade point average on a 4.0 scale;

(4) Qualification for the HOPE scholarship shall be determined from the grade point average calculated as set out in paragraph (3) of this subsection. Beginning May 1, ~~2007~~ 2008, students with grade point averages equal to or in excess of 3.0 on the 4.0 scale with a college preparatory diploma shall meet achievement standards for the HOPE scholarship; students receiving a career/technical diploma shall meet achievement standards for the HOPE scholarship with a grade point average equal to or in excess of 3.2 on a 4.0 scale. This paragraph shall apply regardless of when a student graduated from high school and regardless of such student's eligibility status prior to May 1, ~~2007~~ 2008; and

(5) Beginning May 1, ~~2007~~ 2008, only the reporting system as indicated in this subsection shall be used to determine eligibility for all grants, scholarships, or loans to attend colleges or universities which are administered pursuant to Article 7 of Chapter 3 of this title and eligibility for enrollment in postsecondary courses pursuant to Code Section 20-2-161.1."

### SECTION 3.

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.